

Scenes at Opening of St. Louis Exposition



HEAD OF THE PIKE PARADE PASSING THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ON OPENING DAY.—Photo Copyright, 1904, by Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company.

WHEN the Louisiana Purchase exposition was opened to the public on April 30, the customary state of unpreparedness was found to exist, but had been greatly minimized by the executive officers, who had driven everything at top pressure during the last hours before the date set for the formal exercises. In every way the event was made notable, surpassing in many respects anything of the kind in history. All the great palaces were in readiness for inspection, although a number of exhibitors had not yet completed the installation of their displays. Along "The Pike," where the amusement features are grouped, the visitor was given the most hearty welcome, and had a varied array of sideshows to select from. One of the most gratifying features of the affair, from a Nebraska standpoint, was that the Nebraska exhibit in the Agricultural palace was rated first of all on the preliminary inspection. One hundred was the mark given to Nebraska on preliminary inspection by the judges. This augurs well for the position of the Antelope state on the final markings, for the commission is well equipped to keep the exhibit up to its high standard during the entire time of the exposition, and will certainly not allow it to suffer.

Nebraska's educational and industrial exhibits were also well-considered and highly marked by the judges on preliminary inspection.

Some idea of the magnitude of the scale on which the great exposition is laid out may be gained from an examination of the pictures in this number made on the opening day. The large picture at the top of the page was taken from the steps of the Administration building, and shows the head of The Pike parade just passing. The curious effect of the hollow square formation of the spectators is due to the alignment of the crowds along the walks leading around the plaza in front of the Administration building. This is only one of a number of similar squares to be found on the grounds, and affords a very good illustration of the magnificence of the show.

Major General John C. Bates, who was in charge of the military display on the opening day, is shown with his staff in conference as to the movement of the great column just before the parade began. Prince Pun Lun, Chinese imperial commissioner, shows the customary Oriental interest in things passing around him, his attitude indicating the closest attention to what is going on.



MAJOR GENERAL JOHN C. BATES AND STAFF IN CONFERENCE AT THE OPENING OF THE WORLD'S FAIR.—Photo Copyright, 1904, by Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company.



PRINCE PUN LUN, THE CHINESE COMMISSIONER TO THE WORLD'S FAIR, CAUGHT IN A CHARACTERISTIC POSE WHEN DEEPLY INTERESTED IN THE CEREMONIES.—Photo Copyright, 1904, by Louisiana Purchase Exposition Co.